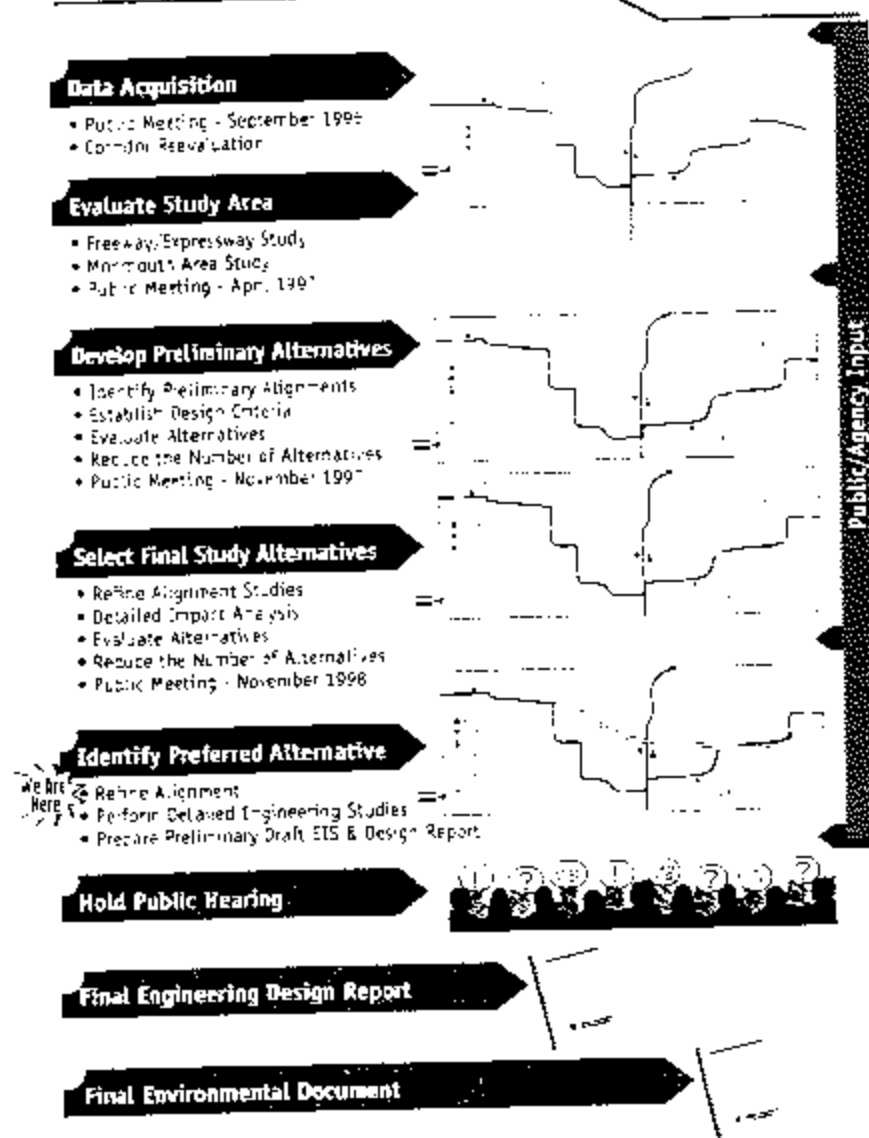


## U.S. Route 34 Planning Process



34 Connections  
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interested parties are invited to attend. No formal presentation will be made, however, representatives from the project Study Team will be available to answer questions and receive your comments.

Engineering design work for the preferred alternative is ongoing to determine access, and right-of-way needs as well as detailed traffic and drainage studies. An Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared to document associated impacts and the alternative analysis considered for the project.

A public hearing will be held later in the study process to present the preferred alternative, and the environmental document and discuss questions and concerns. A notice will be sent to you prior to this meeting.

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- Preferred Alternative
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Connections

401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Peoria, IL 61602-1111



# 34 Connections

Henderson and Warren Counties, Illinois

Issue 4  
Spring 1999

The Illinois Department of Transportation is committed to keeping you informed of activities related to the proposed improvement to U.S. Route 34 from Gulfport to Monmouth. This newsletter provides you an update on project activities since our last public meeting. Your input into the planning process is very important. IDOT encourages your comments and opinions.

For more information, please contact David L. Clark, IDOT Staff Engineer and Clark R. Gierke at the Illinois Department of Transportation, 401 Main Street, Suite 900, Peoria, IL 61602-1111, 309-671-3493.

### Public Information Drop-In Center

Thursday, May 6, 1999  
9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at  
Union Community School,  
Biggsville, IL  
See Upcoming Activities on the next page for more details.

## Study Team Selects Preferred Alternative

The Study Team evaluating the location for an improved four-lane expressway on Route 34 recommends approval of the southern route from the Union Community School east around Biggsville and the existing route from Kirkwood east to Route 67 at Monmouth. Following the public meeting held last November, the Study Team completed additional studies and made the recommendations as follows:

### Union Community School

Two options existed between Union Community School and Biggsville, including one alternative north of the school and one south of the school.

The Study Team recommends that the more southern route be chosen. Reasons for this include: this route does not require displacements of existing businesses or residences located along Route 34 and there would be better and safer traffic circulation into and out of the school; this alignment avoids significant impacts to major utilities such as telephone and fiber optics and a new cellular tower; and it would allow for a future interchange at IL94/IL116, if needed.

### Kirkwood to Route 67

Two options existed for the connection to Route 67 from Kirkwood. One followed existing Route 34 and utilized the location of the existing interchange (which would be modified). The other alternative was located farther south and would require a new interchange with Route 67.

The Study Team recommends that the alternative that utilizes existing Route 34 be chosen. Reasons for this include: significantly less impact to productive farmland; better utilization of existing right of way; less length of travel along Route 34/67 by  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a mile; and significantly less adverse travel for residences along crossroads requiring road closures.

## Monmouth Expressway Improvements

The Study Team continues to examine the existing northwest bypass of Monmouth to determine where improvements need to be made for a safer, more efficient roadway. Improvements will likely include additional turn lanes, traffic signal improvements, resurfacing, and potential access adjustments at crossroads.

The freeway option, which considered access to Monmouth via



The Study Team will continue to work with existing businesses regarding these improvements. Modifications are anticipated at the following intersections:

- 11th Ave.  
(185th Ave.)
- Broadway Ave.
- Harlem Ave.
- Main St.
- 6th St.
- 11th St.
- 87th Ave.
- IL 164  
(northeast)

## Upcoming Activities

A Public Information Drop-In Center has been arranged to be held at Union Community School on Thursday, May 6, 1999 between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of viewing the Illinois Department of Transportation recommendations for a Preferred Alternative alignment between Carman Road and the existing Route 34 and 67 interchange. All

